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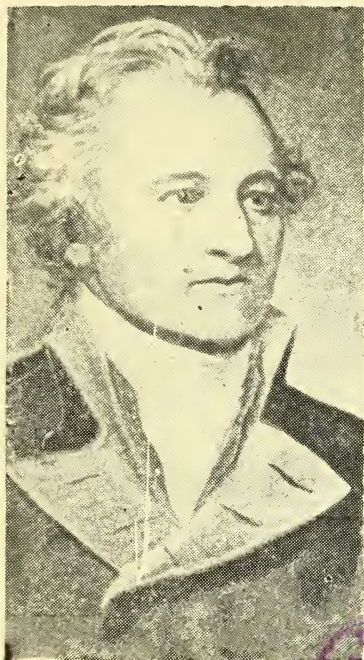
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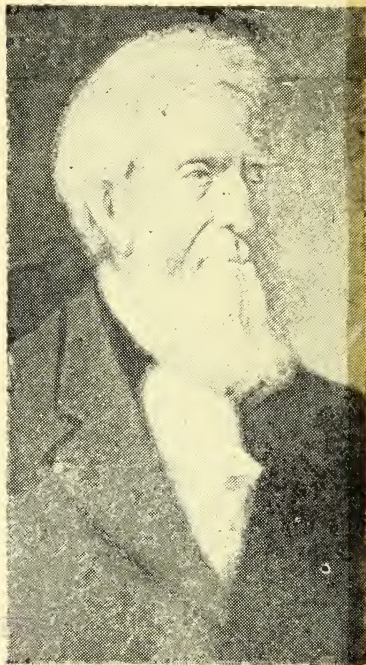


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GEN. JOSEPH CILLEY



COL. JOSEPH CILLEY

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GEN. JOSEPH CILLEY

By JOHN SCALES, A B., A. M.



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# General Joseph Cilley

## His Ancestors

By JOHN SCALES, A. B., A. M.

**J**OSEPH CILLEY, commonly known as Gen. Joseph Cilley, was born in Nottingham, N. H., in 1734, and died in that town August 25, 1799. He was the son of Capt. Joseph Cilley and Alice Rollins or Rawlins, who were married in 1724-25. Captain Cilley was born in Hampton October 6, 1701, and died in Nottingham in 1786. Alice (Rawlins) Cilley was born in 1701 and died in Nottingham in 1801, aged a full hundred years. Captain Cilley was the son of Thomas and Ann (Stanyan) Cilley. Ann Stanyan was the daughter of John and Mary (Bradbury) Stanyan of Salisbury, Mass. John Stanyan was the son of Anthony Stanyan, who was born in England about 1611 and came to New England in 1635 in "The Planter." He lived in Boston and Salisbury. His wife's name was Mary. Captain Cilley's grandmother, Mary Bradbury, was the daughter of Capt. Thomas and Mary (Perkins) Bradbury of Salisbury. Captain Bradbury was one of the ablest men in Massachusetts during his period of active life, 1640-1680.

General Cilley showed his love and respect for this ancestor by naming his eldest son Bradbury. Mary Perkins (Bradbury) was the daughter of John and Judith Perkins of Ipswich, Mass. He was born in England in 1590 and came over in the ship "Lyon" with Roger Williams in 1631. He lived in Boston two years and settled in Ipswich in 1633. He owned "Perkins Island" in Ipswich River. He held various town offices and was representative in the General Court in 1636 and later. He died in 1654.

So much for the ancestors of General Cilley in lines other than the Cilley; all first-class Puritan stock.

General Cilley's grandfather, Capt. Thomas Cilley (Seally), was a sea captain, whose residence was at Hampton, N. H., where his children were born. Later in life he resided at Andover with his son Thomas. He died in Nottingham while there on a visit to his son, Capt. Joseph Cilley, the date of which is not known. He appears to have been a successful sea captain, a good citizen, and not given to office holding or participating in public affairs. He was a gallant old sea dog.

Richard Cilley (Sealy), his father, was a magistrate of the Isles of Shoals for several years, who finally removed to Hampton, where he died; his wife's name is not known; he seems to have been at the Shoals from 1650 to 1660, engaged in the fishing business, at which time and long after the islands were a great fishing station.

He was son of Captain Robert (Seely) Cilley of Watertown, Mass, who came there from England in 1630; his wife's name was Mary who had administration of his estate October 19, 1668. He had three sons, John, William and Richard, whose residence for a number of years was on the Isles of Shoals, where there was then a large settlement. They were all sea-captains and were men of enterprise in various ways.

Such were the ancestors of Captain Joseph Cilley, who with his wife and family removed from Hampton to Nottingham about 1727, and settled on Rattlesnake Hill, so called, on the south easterly side of The Square. He first erected a log cabin in which he deposited his household goods, all of which effects of every description he brought with him on the back of one horse, himself and family accompanying on foot, a distance of about 20 miles they had to travel, much of the way through forests. A clearing was soon effected, with what preliminary work he had done, and good crops were raised the first year. He was industrious, economical and enterprising; his means

increased and in a few years replaced the log cabin with a large frame house; a monument by the road side, from Nottingham Square to Epping Corner, marks the spot where his first log house stood. He purchased other land; built other houses; engaged in lumbering and farming, and became noted for his enterprise and his possessions among the dwellers in Nottingham and the towns around. He earned his title as Captain by service in command of the Provincial Militia, having received his commission from Governor Wentworth. All of his Cilley ancestors were Captains, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was of medium height, compact frame, active temperament, with great powers of endurance and quickness of perception with an almost unerring judgment. He combined great cheerfulness and generous hospitality with a remarkable fearlessness in danger and hopefulness under discouragements. He was born October 6, 1701, and lived to be 85 years old, vigorous almost to the end of life.

Alice (or Elsie) Rawlins (or Rollins) was granddaughter of James Rawlins (or Rollins) who emigrated to America in 1632 with the settlers of Ipswich, Mass., and whose wife was Hannah. They were the ancestors of the distinguished Rollins family of New Hampshire. She was born in 1701 and died in 1801. It was said of her that she was a large, strong, vigorous woman quick of step, strong of will and very methodical in conducting her household affairs. Her home, whether a log cabin or a house two stories high with "gable windows" was a model of neatness and order. She drank neither tea or coffee, nor tasted of the intoxicating bowl, nor smoked or took snuff, which latter was a very fashionable custom in her day. The Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Nottingham is named for her, and they have marked her grave in the General Cilley burying ground on The Square with an immense boulder and bronze tablet.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

In the earliest records the name is variously spelled as Seely, Seeley, Sealy, Sealey, Seelye, Sillea, Ceely; spelling in those days was not a fixed art; it was a sort of spell as you please period; the first of the race to spell in the present way was Captain Joseph Cilley of Nottingham; he so spells his name in his Will and on various documents, and he appears to have been very well educated for a man of that period.

In Froude's History of England, Vol. VIII, page 452, it is recorded that in the year 1563 the following petition was addressed to the Lords of Elizabeth's Council: "In most lamentable wise showeth unto your honors, your humble Orator Dorothy Seely, of the city of Bristol, wife to Thomas Seely, of the Queen's Majesty's guard, that where her said husband upon most vile, slanderous, spiteful, malicious and most villainous words spoken against the Queen's Majesty's own person by a certain subject of the King of Spain—here not to be uttered—not being able to suffer the same did flee upon the same slanderous person, and gave him a blow—so it is, most honorable Lords, that here upon my said husband, no other offence in respect of their religion then committed, was secretly accused to the Inquisition of the Holy House, and so committed to most vile prison, and there hath remained now three whole years in miserable state and cruel torments."

In the list of captains who accompanied Drake to the West Indies in his famous voyage 1585-86, appears the name of Captain Thomas Seeley in command of the "Minion"; he was probably a son of the Thomas above mentioned; his mother had trained him up to manhood in deadly hatred of the Spanish race.

Burke states:—The family was of Norman extraction; that John Sealey, Esq., said to have been of the family of Sealy of Bridgewater, went to the sister isle in the time of Charles II. He was the father of Robert Sealy, Esq., of

Bardon, who married Miss Marsh, sister of General Marsh, and had issue, Robert, Armiger, George, Baldwin, Eliza, Bridget and Jane. From Burke it also appears that Charles Seeley, Esq., was a member of Parliament from Nottingham. "Ollyver Ceely" appears as Major of the militia in Plymouth in 1660. The name of Ceely occurs in the list of emigrants from Essex County, England.

Robert Seely of Watertown probably came to America in the fleet with Winthrop, as the registry of his desire to become a freeman was October 19, 1630, and as "Robte Seely" took the oath of freeman May 18, 1631, at Watertown, Mass.

This Robert Seeley rendered valuable military service in the Indian wars and came to be an officer with the rank of Lieutenant. He was second in command under Captain Mason in the Pequot War. This service called his attention to the lands in Rhode Island and Connecticut and he finally settled in the latter colony. He had then risen to the dignity of Captain, and was chosen "Commissioner for ye Town of Huntington and sworn in Court May 14, 1663." Captain Seeley seems to have died in New York in 1668.

While Captain Seeley was engaged in fighting the Indians, his sons appear to have come down to the Isles of Shoals and engaged in fishing, which was then a very flourishing and profitable business there. One of the settlers there at that time was John Cutting, and probably his daughter or grand daughter married Captain Joseph Cilley's grandfather Richard Cilley (Sealy); hence it came that Capt. Joseph named one of his sons "Cutting," for the boy's great-grandmother, Mary Cutting. This son became Capt. Cutting Cilley in the Revolutionary Army and did valliant service for the patriot cause.

"A History of Cailly in Normdie," recently published in pamphlet form says: "Guillaume de Cailly accompanied in 1066 Guillaume The Conqueror, in England and valiantly fought at Hastings, preferring to die than to fail to

the faith that he owed to his Duke." It is claimed, and perhaps truthfully, that this soldier is the founder of the family in England and established the name. In this History the name is spelled de Cailly, de Caly, and de Saily previous to 1399 when it was spelled de Sealy and de Cely. Later the "de" was dropped and it appears as Cailly, Cely and Sealy, but all from that same old warrior who came over from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066.

#### HIS EARLY MANHOOD AND HIS FAMILY

General Cilley's ancestors, paternal and maternal, were all English; he was a thoroughbred Englishman on American soil; not of a lineage counted great, but of fishers and choppers and ploughmen, who constituted New England's yeomanry. For forty years he was a loyal subject of the king of Great Britain, and he would no doubt have remained so all his life if King George had behaved himself and treated his subjects justly and honorably, as King Edward of to-day conducts the affairs of state in Great Britain. The story of General Cilley's dealings with King George will be told later. Let us look at the first two score years of his life.

Joseph Cilley was born in Nottingham, in 1734; he had three sisters older, one of whom, Alice, married Enoch Page; and one sister and a brother younger. That younger sister was Abigail, who married Capt. Zephaniah Butler, an officer in the Revolutionary Army; they were the grand-parents of Gen. Benjamin F. Butler of the Civil War. She was the woman who taught her grandson his A, B, C's and instilled into his mind the spirit of independence and free thought which she had inherited and imbibed during the great struggle of the Revolution, in which her brothers Joseph and Cutting were such prominent actors. The younger son was born in 1738, married Martha Morrill in 1761 and died in 1825, aged 87 years. He resided in Nottingham and was a captain in the Revo-

lutionary Army during the war. He held various town offices in Nottingham. His last days were passed in Northfield, where he died at the residence of his son John. They had twelve children, nine boys and three girls, all but one of whom were married and left descendants. Several of the sons lived to great age and have honorable records.

Gen. Joseph Cilley was a farmer; his farm and family residence were on The Square, about a mile above the residence of his father at the Ledge Farm, where he was born. Previous to the Revolution he held some town offices, but his chief attention was given to farming, lumbering and business affairs in general, such as occupied the attention and energies of business men in that period. He was united in marriage with Sarah Longfellow, November 4, 1756. He was then 22 years old; she was 17. They had ten children, three daughters and seven sons. He died August 25, 1799, aged 65. She died May 23, 1811.

Sarah Longfellow was the daughter of Judge Jonathan and Mercy (Clark) Longfellow, who settled in Nottingham about the same time, or a little after Capt. Joseph Cilley settled there. For further information in regard to Judge Longfellow and his wife, the reader is referred to a previous number of THE GRANITE STATE MAGAZINE. Sarah Longfellow Cilley was a woman of superior intelligence and strong personality. At the opening of the Revolution she was only 37 years old. When her husband went to the war she resolutely took up the burden of managing the farm, the family of eight children and household affairs in general. Her eldest daughter had been married two years; her eldest son, Bradbury, was 15 years old. Those were strenuous times, but Mrs. Cilley was equal to the demand, and with the loyal help of her young sons, whom she trained in ways of industry, she kept the farm and all the family affairs in a prosperous condition until her gallant husband sheathed his sword and returned from the warpaths to the paths of peace. What the woman did at home was equally as patriotic as what the man did in the field of war. After the war Mrs. Cilley was a conspicuous and leading lady in the

numerous social functions which the brilliant career of her husband demanded of them to participate in. Sarah Longfellow Cilley was a model Colonial Dame of the opening years of the American Republic.

The children of Gen. Joseph and Sarah (Longfellow) Cilley were as follows:

1. Sarah, born October 16, 1757; married, August 19, 1773, Judge Thomas Bartlett of Nottingham, who was one of the leading patriots in New Hampshire, and a descendant of the distinguished Bartlett family of Old Newbury, Mass. He was one of the leading men in town affairs of Nottingham for forty years. He was captain of a company at Winter Hill in 1775-76; lieutenant-colonel in Colonel Gilman's Regiment in 1776, and same in Colonel Evans' Regiment in Rhode Island, 1778. He was colonel of one of the regiments New Hampshire raised for the defense of West Point in 1780, where he was stationed when General Arnold played the traitor. He was a member of the Committee of Safety from May 28, 1778, to January 5, 1779. After the war he was major-general of the New Hampshire militia, succeeding his father-in-law, Gen. Joseph Cilley. During the last ten years of his life he was judge in the Court of Common Pleas, holding that office at the time of his death, in 1805.

2. Bradbury, born February 1, 1760; married, November 19, 1792, Martha, daughter of Gen. Enoch Poor. This son was not much in public life, but was a man of great business ability, much of which was due to the training his mother gave him during the Revolutionary period. He was elected representative in Congress in 1813 and served one term. He was colonel on Governor Gilman's staff in 1814-15, doing active duty in the fall of 1814. In 1817 he was United States marshal for the district of New Hampshire. He acquitted himself honorably in all of those offices, but his great ability was manifested in business affairs. He always resided on Nottingham Square; he died there December 17, 1831, in his seventy-second year.





HON. JONATHAN CILLEY

# General Joseph Cilley

## II

By JOHN SCALES. A. B., A. M.

**J**ONATHAN, third child, born March 8, 1762; married, July 5, 1786, Dorcas Butler, daughter of Rev. Benjamin Butler, pastor of Nottingham for many years. He was with his father, then a colonel of the First New Hampshire Regiment, in 1777, a boy of fifteen years. When the sudden march from Ticonderoga took place, Jonathan was taken prisoner. His captor, on learning who he was, took him to General Burgoyne, who ordered that he should be treated kindly, and later he was provided with a pass to join his father in the American army. General Burgoyne also permitted the boy to select from the captured baggage, which was immense, any article of clothing he might desire. Jonathan took the best looking coat he could find. This proved to have belonged to Major Hull, afterwards the celebrated General Hull. He was also provided with an old horse and a pair of saddlebags, filled with Burgoyne's proclamations, to convey to his father. On reaching the regiment, he found it on parade, with his father in front. Colonel Cilley seized one of the proclamations and read it aloud to his men; then, ordering all the papers to be torn to pieces, he said:

"Thus may the British army be scattered."

Early in 1782, when he was twenty years old, Jonathan was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, which position he held to the close of the war. He married, July 5, 1786, Dorcas, daughter of Rev. Benjamin and Dorcas (Abbott) Butler, and they resided in Nottingham until 1804, when he removed with his family to Ohio and settled at Colerain, near Cincinnati. In Nottingham he held vari-

ous town offices, was justice of the peace, inspector and brigade major of the Third Regiment of New Hampshire Militia, assistant treasurer of the Order of Cincinnati from 1794 to 1799, and vice-president from 1799 to 1802. In Ohio he became a large land-owner, and was prominent in business and military affairs. They had six sons and five daughters, most of whom married and have descendants in the West.

4. Joseph, born November 19, 1764; died December 3, 1779.

5. Greenleaf, born March 5, 1767; married May 22, 1788, Jennie Nealley; he died February 25, 1808; she died March 26, 1866, aged ninety-four years. She was a daughter of Joseph and Susannah (Bowdoin) Nealley of Nottingham. Her father was an officer in the Revolutionary Army and participated in the Siege of Boston. He was in the army at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered and at Yorktown when Cornwallis capitulated, besides being in other battles. Mrs. Cilley was a remarkable woman, handsome in personal appearance, brilliant in intellect, and retaining all of her faculties and vigor of mind to the end of life. Her husband was a farmer in Nottingham; he held various town offices and was major in one of the regiments of the state militia. They had three sons and four daughters. Two of the sons had notable careers: Joseph, who was born January 4, 1791, and Jonathan who was born July 2, 1802.

The elder son was known as Col. Joseph Cilley, his grandfather was General Joseph, and his great-grandfather was Capt. Joseph Cilley. It is well to keep these titles in mind in considering the various persons bearing the name Joseph Cilley. They have sometimes been confused.

Col. Joseph Cilley was educated at Atkinson Academy. He was commissioned as ensign in the First Company of the Eighteenth Regiment, by Gov. John Langdon, October 17, 1811. On March 12, 1812, he was appointed an ensign in the United States army and ordered

for duty in Capt. John McClary's company, Eleventh Regiment, United States Infantry, then commanded by Col. Isaac Clark of Vermont. He was promoted to lieutenant March 17, 1814, and transferred to the Twenty-First United States Infantry, commanded by Colonel Miller, and was in the battle of Chippewa. In the battle of Brandywater, or "Lundy's Lane," he was badly wounded by a musket ball, producing a compound fracture of the thigh bone. Soon afterwards he was brevetted captain for his gallantry in that battle.

The action of the Twenty-First Regiment in this engagement deserves mention. The enemy after the repulse at Chippewa, July 4, 1814, on the 25th of July appeared in force at Queenstown, and his fleet arrived and lay near Fort Niagara. General Scott, with the First Brigade, Towson Artillery and all the dragoons and cavalry, was ordered to march towards Queenstown, to report if the enemy appeared, and to call for assistance if necessary. Scott pushed on his command with vigor, and upon his arrival at the Falls found the enemy, under General Riall, directly in front, behind a narrow strip of woods, and in line of battle up Lundy's Lane, a ridge of land nearly at right angles with the Niagara, and about a mile below the Falls. General Scott sent information to General Brown, and his advance commenced skirmishing about 5.30 P. M., but the action did not commence in earnest until 7 P. M., The British were in much larger force, hence were able to extend their lines much farther and to make flank movements. To counteract this advantage, our troops fought in detachments and charged in columns, each upon their own responsibility, until General Brown came up with the remainder of the forces. Major Jessup, taking advantage of a wood between a road parallel to the river and the river, through which he led his regiment, turned the enemy's left, took General Riall and some of his principal officers prisoners, and, charging back, regained his position in gallant style. Meanwhile, the enemy moved a battalion

to the rear of our right flank, but were promptly met by Major McNeil with the Eleventh, and driven back with great slaughter. Thus the contest raged for an hour; the British infantry driven back at each point by turns, but holding their position through a powerful battery of two twenty-fours, four sixes, and three howitzers, planted upon a rising ground and commanding the field, and keeping up a destructive and incessant fire.

Now came Ripley's brigade, containing Lieutenant Cilley's regiment, to the front, enveloped in smoke and mad with excitement, greeted with cheer after cheer by the combatants. While forming for evening parade, the booming of cannon and the rattling of small arms announced that Scott had found the enemy. They moved immediately, and at the double quick, actually running three miles betwixt the camp and the battlefield. Porter's brigade followed them. Both were soon deployed and hurled against the enemy, but the battery upon the hill made sad havoc among our troops. It became evident to General Brown that the British battery must be carried to insure success. He turned to gallant Miller of the Twenty-First, and ordered him to storm the battery. "I'll try, sir," was the laconic reply. The contest that followed is well described in a letter written by Colonel Miller.

"I had short of 300 men with me, as my regiment had been weakened by numerous details made from it during the day. I however, immediately obeyed the order. We could see all their slow matches and port fires burning and ready. I did not know what side had the most favorable approach, but happened to hit upon a very favorable place, notwithstanding we advanced upon the mouths of their pieces. There was an old rail fence on the side where we approached, undiscovered by the enemy, with a small growth of shrubbery by the fence, and in within less than two rods of the cannon's mouth. I then very cautiously ordered my men to rest across the fence, take good aim, fire and rush; which was done in style. Not a man at the

cannon was left to put fire to them. We got into the center of their park before they had time to oppose us. A British line was formed and placed in line to protect their artillery; the moment we got to the center they opened a most destructive flank fire on us; killed many and attempted to charge with their bayonets. We returned the fire so warmly they were compelled to stand. We fought hand to hand for some time, so close that the blaze of our guns crossed each other; but we compelled them to abandon their whole artillery, ammunition wagons and all; amounting to seven pieces of brass cannon, one of which was a twenty-four pounder, with eight horses and harnesses, though some of the horses were killed. The British made two more attempts to charge us at close quarters, both of which were repulsed before I was re-enforced by the First and Twenty-Third Regiments; and even after that the British charged with their whole line three several times, and after getting within half pistol shot of us were compelled to give way. I took with my regiment between thirty and forty prisoners."

This charge took place about 10 o'clock at night, in moonlight. Colonel Miller's regiment lost in killed, wounded and missing, one hundred and twenty-six, nearly one-half his strength. Lieutenant-Colonel Cilley's company led in the charge on the cannon, and every commissioned and every non-commissioned officer present with the company was either killed or wounded. This was one of the most sanguinary battles of the war, and the gallant act of Colonel Miller and the noble Twenty-First won the admiration of all.

Lieutenant Cilley was afterwards brevetted captain for his gallantry in that battle, and was retained in the United States army on the peace establishment until he resigned his commission in July, 1816. An explosion of cartridges at Detroit, Mich., caused the loss of his right eye. On the 21st of June, 1817, he was commissioned as quartermaster on the staff of the first division, New Hampshire militia,

and in 1821 as division inspector; in 1827 he was appointed aide on the staff of Gov. Benjamin Pierce, with the rank of colonel, by which title he was known the rest of his life. In 1846, Colonel Cilley was elected by the legislature to the United States senate, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon Levi Woodbury. Upon the close of his senatorial term, Colonel Cilley retired to his farm in Nottingham.

#### HON. JONATHAN CILLEY

Hon. Jonathan Cilley, a younger brother of Colonel Joseph, born July 2, 1802, prepared for college at Atkinson Academy, graduated from Bowdoin College in 1825, the class which had many members who became distinguished, among the number being Longfellow and Hawthorne; he studied law with United States Senator John Ruggles at Thomaston, Me.; being admitted to the bar, he entered into practice of his profession at that place. He not only became a successful lawyer, but also became interested in political affairs soon after entering upon his practice of law; he edited the "Thomaston Register" from 1829 to 1831; he was elected representative from Thomaston to the legislature in 1831-33-34-35 and served as speaker of the house the latter year. In 1832 he was elected presidential elector; in 1836 he was elected to congress, being the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party in that congressional district, although only thirty-four years old. His career as congressman was cut short by a duel with Congressman William J. Graves of Kentucky, February 24, 1838, in which he was shot dead on the field at Bladensburg, Md. That duel is historic, as it caused the end of duelling by congressmen. A brief of the story of the duel is as follows:

On January 23, 1838, in the house of representatives, Henry A. Wise, representative from Virginia, who later was governor of Virginia from 1856 to 1860, in which his last act was hanging John Brown at Harper's Ferry,

opposed the appropriation bill before the house for the expenses of the Seminole War, in which he indulged in one of his most bitter tirades and a general attack upon the administration.

Mr. Cilley answered him in calm language, delivering one of the most admirable speeches ever heard in that ancient hall of congress. In this he brought to bear upon the unworthy factiousness from which the opposition to the bill evidently sprung, a power of reasoning, a broad, philosophic elevation of views, and a moral power of sincerity and patriotism perfectly overwhelming, but Henry A. Wise was one of those "Hotspurs" who make all the more fuss the more they are "overwhelmed."

The next step towards the duel arose from a Washington letter, published by the *New York Courier and Enquirer*, signed, "A Spy in Washington," in which some unnamed member of congress was charged with corruption and bribery, and the charge was backed editorially by Col. James Watson Webb, a man who was as much of a "Hotspur" as Henry A. Wise, who introduced a resolution of inquiry in regard to the charge. A lively debate occurred on that resolution, in which Mr. Cilley took part and opposed the adoption of the resolution on the ground that the anonymous obscurity of the source from which the charge came placed it entirely beneath the dignity of the house to entertain it, especially as the charge was without specification, individuality, oath, or direct responsibility, the writer being unknown, and the member accused being not named, the writer being vouched for by the editor of a newspaper, of which paper he said: -

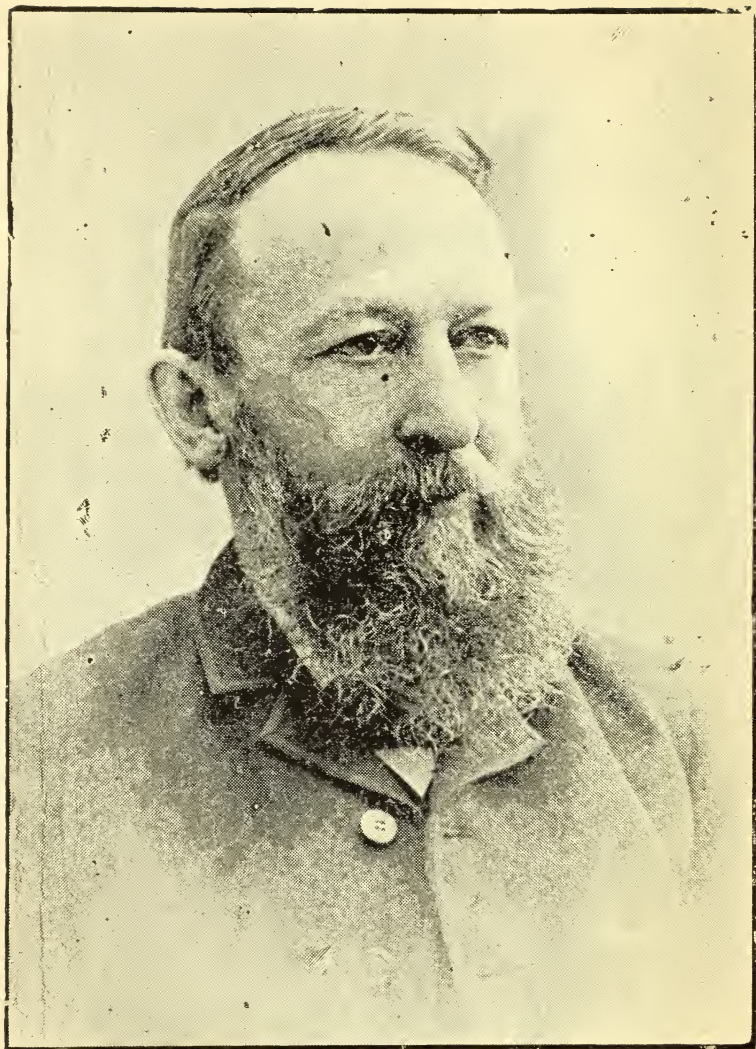
"He knew nothing of the editor, but if it was the same editor who had once made grave charges against an institution of the country and afterwards was said to have received facilities to the amount of some fifty-two thousand dollars from the same institution and gave it his hearty support, he did not think his charges were entitled to much credit in an American congress."

This led to a letter from Webb, demanding that Mr. Cilley should apologize or fight a duel. Mr. Cilley positively declined to have anything to do with Webb, or to be called to account for words spoken in debate on the floor of the house. Webb's challenge was carried to Mr. Cilley by Congressman William J. Graves of Kentucky and, as the challenge was declined, Graves took it upon himself to make Mr. Cilley apologize in some way and say that he had not "any personal objection to Colonel Webb as a gentleman." Mr. Cilley replied that he would not be drawn into any controversy with Webb, and he would neither affirm nor deny that Webb was a "gentleman" and a "man of honor," and at the same time he assured Mr. Graves that he intended no disrespect for him (Graves) in refusing to have anything to do with Webb.

An extended correspondence then followed in regard to the challenge by Graves and arranging for the duel, Henry A. Wise acting as "second" to Graves, and George W. Jones acting as "second" to Mr. Cilley. Mr. Jones was congressman from Michigan. The duel was fought on the famous duelling ground at Bladensburg, just outside of Washington; time about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, February 24; the weapons, rifles; distance apart, 80 yards; three shots were fired and Cilley fell on the third, shot dead.

The affair caused a tremendous commotion in Washington, which spread throughout the country, the general public branding Graves as a murderer and Wise and Jones as *particeps criminis*. All three were terribly frightened, fearing prosecution and severe punishment. Jones and Wise published a statement, trying to justify their connection with the affair and calm the excitement which had arisen, but their statement failed to accomplish anything of the kind.





GEN. JONATHAN PRINCE CILLEY

# General Joseph Cilley

## III

By JOHN SCALES, A. B., A. M.

THE duel was fought on the 24th of February. Hon. John Fairfield, congressman from York county, Me., at once introduced a resolution in the house, calling for the appointment of a committee to investigate the affair and report whether there had been any breach of the privileges of the house. That committee reported on the 21st of April, 1838, that "It is a breach of the highest privilege of the house, and of the most sacred rights of the people, in the person of their representative, to demand, in a hostile manner, an explanation of words spoken in debate." The report was accompanied by resolutions for the expulsion of Graves, Wise and Jones. A long debate followed, in which the sentiments expressed in favor of duelling seem most ridiculous now. Finally they were saved from expulsion by a vote of 102 to 76, but this did not end the excitement and indignation outside of the house, and James Watson Webb, the New York editor, was denounced as equally guilty with Graves. The following session of congress enacted the law, which now stands, forever forbidding duelling by congressmen for words spoken in debate. Party feeling then ran high, but party lines were abolished in the manifestation of indignation. It was denounced as "a dastardly murder," "a cold blooded assassination." Mr. Cilley himself believed that the challenge was the fruit of a desire to take his life. Mr. Cilley said to his friends on the morning of the encounter:

"I am driven to this meeting by a positive compulsion. I have done all that an honorable man could to avert it. Why should I acknowledge that man (Webb) to be a gen-

tleman and a man of honor? In truth and conscience I could not do so; and still less can I have it so unreasonably extorted from me by force and threat. I have no ill will or disrespect towards Mr. Graves. He knows it, and I have repeatedly expressed it. I abhor the idea of taking his life, and I will do nothing not forced upon me in self-defense. The pretext of the challenge is absurd. I understand the conspiracy to destroy me as a public man. But New England must not be trampled upon; my name must not be disgraced; and I go to this field sustained by as high a motive of patriotism as ever led my grandfather or my brother to battle; as an unhappy duty, not to be shrunk from, to my honor, my principles and my country."

Mr. Cilley's college classmate and lifelong friend, Nathaniel Hawthorne, said of this duel, soon after it occurred: "A challenge was never given on a more shadowy pretext; a duel was never pressed to a fatal close in the face of such open kindness as was expressed by Mr. Cilley; and the conclusion is inevitable that Mr. Graves and his principal second, Mr. Wise, have gone further than their own dreadful code will warrant them, and overstepped the imaginary distinction, which, on their own principles, separates manslaughter from murder."

Mr. Hawthorne further said: "As a young man he was of a quick and powerful intellect, endowed with sagacity and tact, yet frank and free in his mode of action; ambitious of good influence, earnest, active and persevering, with an elasticity and cheerful strength of mind, which made difficulties easy and the struggles with them a pleasure. He was the kindest and gentlest of human beings, with a constant and happy flow of animal spirits, and the innocence of a child; while at the same time as independent, courageous and firm in his purpose as he was clear in his judgment and upright in his every thought."

#### GEN. JONATHAN PRINCE CILLEY

In this connection it seems proper to give a brief mention of Congressman Cilley's son, Gen. Jonathan Prince

Cilley of Thomaston, Me., who was two years old when his father was killed in the duel. General Cilley graduated at Bowdoin College in 1858; studied law with A. P. Gould of Thomaston, Me., and after admission to the bar practised his profession in that city. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted 150 men for a light field battery; but that arm of the service not being required, he enlisted in the First Maine Cavalry and was commissioned captain. During the retreat of General Banks from the Shenandoah Valley, he was wounded and made prisoner at Middletown, May 24, 1862. Subsequently he was promoted to be major and was assigned to duty as judge advocate and examining officer at the central guard house in Washington, D. C. In 1863 he rejoined his regiment, although his severe wound had not completely healed; in 1864 he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and placed in command of a regiment, which position he held till the close of the war; when he was mustered out, in 1865, he was brevetted brigadier-general, for distinguished services at Five Forks, Farmville and Appomattox court house. His regiment was the banner regiment of Maine, and bears the names of three more battles upon its standard than any other regiment in the Army of the Potomac, and on the standard General Cilley is designated as "the first man who enlisted, the first man wounded, and nearly the last man mustered out." It is officially stated that his regiment had ten more men and one more officer than any other cavalry regiment in the United States' service.

After the war, General Cilley resumed his law practice in Rockland, Me., and has been much honored by his state. He has been a member of the legislature, deputy collector of customs, adjutant-general of the state, commissioner of the United States circuit court. He is an active member of the Maine Historical Society, corresponding member of the New Hampshire Historical Society, member of the New Hampshire Society of Cincinnati and of the Loyal Legion Commandery of Maine. General Cilley has no

children, having lost his only son, a very brilliant and excellent young man, a few years ago.

#### GENERAL CILLEY'S SONS CONCLUDED

The fifth son and sixth child was Daniel, born March 12, 1769; married November 7, 1790, Hannah Plumer; he died December 4, 1842. His wife was a sister of Gov. William Plumer and daughter of Samuel and Mary Dole Plumer. She died February 19, 1850. Mr. Cilley was a farmer and resided in Epsom, where he was one of the most worthy and highly respected citizens. They had seven sons and one daughter. One of the sons was Rev. Daniel Plumer Cilley, who was one of the leading clergymen of the Freewill Baptist denomination. He was born May 31, 1806, and died in Farmington, November 14, 1888. He was chaplain of the Eighth New Hampshire Regiment of Volunteers during the Civil War, and had a brave record as a fighting chaplain, as well as in praying. Mrs. Adelaide Cilley Waldron, author and editor, wife of Judge John Waldron of Farmington, is his daughter.

A very large concourse of people attended his funeral. At the service, one of his fellow-ministers, the oldest among the number, who knew him in early years, arose and said: "I knew this king among men all his life. How powerfully he could preach; how fervently he prayed, and oh, how sweetly he sang."

He had a remarkably vibrant, strong and resonant, but sweet, high voice. I have seen few men so noticeable in personal port and fineness of feature. He was very dainty in his habits, clean of life and tongue, high-minded—and with all the fighting impulse of the soldierly clan of the Cilleys, on occasion.

The sixth son and eighth child of General Cilley was Jacob, born July 19, 1773; married, January 8, 1801, Harriet, daughter of General Enoch Poor. He died January 22, 1831. His wife was born January 31, 1780; died June 7, 1838. He resided in Nottingham and was known as

Major Cilley, having held that office in the state militia. He was also a justice of the peace many years and representative from Nottingham in the legislature for 1802, 1803, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1810, 1812 and 1813. One of his grandsons was Prof. Bradbury Longfellow Cilley, who was for forty years professor of Greek in Phillips Exeter Academy. Another grandson is Gen. Harry B. Cilley of Manchester, whose father was Jacob Green Cilley and whose mother (Martha Cilley Bouton) is granddaughter of Horatio Gates Cilley, and great-granddaughter of Gen. Joseph Cilley.

Horatio Gates Cilley, the seventh son and youngest child of Gen. Joseph Cilley, was born December 23, 1777; married November 17, 1802, Sally Jenness; she was born in Deerfield, August 4, 1782; he died November 26, 1837; she died November 11, 1865. He was a farmer and resided in Deerfield. He was an extensive land owner, a man of great energy of character, a safe counsellor, a good advocate, generous and humane. His only son, Horatio Gates Cilley, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1827, and was a prominent lawyer of Lewiston, Me. A grandson, Horatio Gates Cilley, graduated from Dartmouth in 1863

#### HIS MILITARY RECORD

Gen. Joseph Cilley was a representative from Nottingham in the Provincial Congress of New Hampshire, which was held at Exeter in June, 1775. His most conspicuous service in that Congress was his appointment as one of a committee to go to Portsmouth for the money belonging to the Province, then in the hands of the treasurer, George Jeffreys, Esq. The treasurer was unwilling to give it to the committee, but finally complied with the request. The money was taken to Exeter and deposited in a safe in the old Gilman house, which house is now owned by the New Hampshire Society of the Cincinnati. General Cilley was one of the original members of this society, and his great-grandson, Gen. Jonathan Prince Cilley, of Maine, is the

present lineal representative. Six months before that, December 15, 1774, General Cilley was one of the party with Gen. John Sullivan of Durham, who took the cannon and other implements of war from Fort William and Mary, now Fort Constitution, and carried them up the river to Durham, with the powder, one hundred barrels or more, which had been captured and taken from the fort on the afternoon of the day before, December 14, by a party of Portsmouth men, led by Capt. John Langdon. This was done on the suggestion of Paul Revere, who came to that town from Boston with the information that no more powder was to be imported, and that the British would probably remove any found from the fort if the people of Portsmouth did not make the first move and take it. From Durham the powder and cannon were distributed inland, in various towns, for safe keeping. The Pascataqua River was free of ice up to its head, the entrance to Little Bay at Fox Point, and the mouth of the Oyster River.

The river and bay were frozen over, and it took a crew of men two days to break the ice and get the powder and cannon up to the head of tide water, a distance of two miles, to the old meeting-house, near General Sullivan's house. General Cilley and General Sullivan worked with the big crew of men until the powder was stored temporarily under the meeting-house. That transaction was the first act of war in the Revolution; the conflict at Lexington and Concord was four months later. It was very fortunate that the powder and cannon were removed from the fort on December 14 and 15, for a day or two afterwards the British frigate "Scarboro" and the sloop "Canseau" arrived at Portsmouth with several companies of soldiers, who took possession of the fort and of the heavy cannon which Sullivan and his men had not been able to remove. Paul Revere's ride to Portsmouth on December 13, 1774, was no less important, though not quite so exciting and picturesque, as his ride from Charlestown to Lexington and Concord, four months later. On

the afternoon of December 14, Capt. John Langdon and his men had taken out of the fort one hundred barrels of powder, and he sent word to Sullivan at Durham to come down and take it up to that town, hence Sullivan and Cilley and Bartlett and a big crew of men went to Portsmouth and took charge of it. Sullivan thinking it better to go to the fort and finish the job which the Portsmouth men had so successfully begun.

"I went down (December 15) with a large number of men and in the night (December 15-16) went in person with gundalos, took possession of the fort, brought away the remainder of the powder, the small arms, bayonets, and cartouch boxes, together with the cannon and ordinance stores; I was out all night (very cold) and returned to Portsmouth next day. The gundalos, with the stores, were brought to Durham, after several days spent in cutting ice, the Durham river being then frozen over; the cannon; etc., was then deposited in places of security."

Those "places of security" were in the towns around Durham; one place was on Nottingham Square, where General Cilley lived; another place was in Madbury, where Major John Demeritt built a storage cellar under his barn and concealed several barrels; some of that powder he carried to Medford in January and February and it was used by Stark and Reed's regiments at the battle of Bunker Hill, as Major Demeritt himself has stated. Later some of it was used in the siege of Boston.

After the battle of Bunker Hill, General Cilley did not participate in civil affairs to any extent; he had a natural taste for military affairs and his time was taken up in the performance of duties assigned him in that line of work by the Colonial authorities. Soon after the battles of Lexington and Concord the Massachusetts Committee of Safety organized the New Hampshire troops into two regiments, appointing John Stark colonel of the First, and James Reid, colonel of the second; soon after that the Congress of New Hampshire gave its formal approval of

the action of the Massachusetts Committee in appointing Stark and Reid, and also organized a Third Regiment, appointing Enoch Poor, colonel, and Joseph Cilley, major, and assigned this regiment to coast guard duty, from Kittery to Salisbury, Mass., thus commenced the work of putting Portsmouth in order of defense against expected attacks from the British fleet. They were engaged in this work until the battle of Bunker Hill; after that battle Colonel Poor's regiment was ordered to Cambridge to engage in the Siege of Boston, and a new regiment under command of Col. Joshua Wingate was placed in charge of Portsmouth, and the New Hampshire coast in general. This work became very active after the burning of Falmouth (Portland) in October, 1775, when it was daily expected that the British fleet would attack the New Hampshire seaport, and burn it. As a matter of fact, it was the most exciting period of the war, as far as New Hampshire was concerned, though it was never in danger of invasion after December, 1775.

At Winter Hill, August 5, 1775, General Sullivan wrote to the Committee of Safety that the army then was short of powder, to the great amazement of General Washington, when it was found that they had not a half pound to a man, exclusive of what they had in their powder horns. General Sullivan appointed Major Cilley as a special messenger to carry his letter to Exeter. Arriving there August 6, on August 7 the Committee of Safety gave him the following order:

In Committee of Safety August 7, 1775

*To Major Joseph Cilley:*

You are desired as soon as possible to apply to the Selectmen of the Several Towns in this Colony with whom was lodged the powder taken last winter from Fort William and Mary; take an account of what is in their custody respectively and request of them forth with to convey the whole of it to Col. Nicholas Gilman at Exeter.

By Order of the Committee,

Indorsed "To Major Cilley"

August 7th 1775

## General Joseph Cilley

### IV

**A**S MAJOR CILLEY was one of the men who helped take the powder from Portsmouth and carry it up the Pascataqua River to Durham, from where it was distributed, he knew just what towns to which to go and get it, in that time of distressing need. Some of it had already been used at the battle of Bunker Hill by Colonels Stark and Reid. Major Cilley attended to the duty assigned him and in due time had the powder on the way to Winter Hill for use of the soldiers under General Sullivan's command. The reader must bear in mind that they did not have any telephones, telegraphs or postoffices, and not very good roads in those days. All letters and messages had to be sent by special carriers, who rode on horseback, the latter being the way Major Cilley went from town to town and gave orders for moving the powder. When it came to carting the powder to Exeter, and thence to Winter Hill, the work was done by ox teams; they were slow, sturdy oxen and patriots held the goads, and if slow they got there without delay. That campaign of 1775 was the liveliest New Hampshire ever saw, and Major Cilley was one of the most active men. He was also one of the foremost during the siege of Boston, from August, 1775, till the evacuation, March 17, 1776. Occasionally he took a hand in arranging the defences at Portsmouth Harbor in the fall of 1775.

When the British left Boston, General Washington anticipated that the next attack would be on New York, so he marched his army as rapidly as possible to that place, where he waited and watched for the movements of

Admiral Howe. General Sullivan's brigade, of which Major Cilley's regiment (Third) was a part, went to New York with Washington. While the siege of Boston was going on, General Montgomery from Ticonderoga and the New Hampshire troops under Benedict Arnold from Cambridge had attempted to capture Quebec, and failed, Montgomery losing his life (Dec. 31, 1775). The army then commenced the retreat up the St. Lawrence River, pursued by the British forces. General Thomas was placed in command of the American Army.

To relieve and save the army from destruction General Washington ordered General Sullivan and his brigade to march as speedily as possible to Canada. Sullivan left New York April 22, 1776, went up the Hudson river, then overland to Ticonderoga, down Lake Champlain to the Sorel River, down that river to the St. Lawrence, and so on until he met and saved General Thomas's army, Thomas having died before Sullivan arrived at the point of meeting. Then came the retreat; many of the men sick with small-pox; but at length General Sullivan and his army reached Ticonderoga. The whole story is thrilling and soul-stirring, the bravery and the suffering of the men, the skill and good generalship of Sullivan, make one of the remarkable chapters in the history of the Revolutionary War. Major Cilley had been promoted to Lieut.-Colonel in June, on retirement of John McDuffee, and was a conspicuous, brave and useful officer during the Canadian campaign of rescue. It was fortunate that he kept his health all through it, while so many of his men were sick. When Sullivan's army reached Crown Point and went into camp, Colonel Trumbull took a look at them; he says: "I did not look into a tent or hut in which I did not find either a dead or a dying man."

After remaining there and at Ticonderoga a while, General Gates being the superior in rank of Sullivan and in command, Sullivan and his brigade of New Hampshire (Lt. Col. Cilley's regiment a part of it) left for New York

and joined Washington, at some day in the last of July 1776. Washington's army then consisted of about 20,000 men, of whom one fifth were sick, Lieut. Col. Cilley not being one of the list. Washington was soon reinforced by 7,000 troops, mostly New England men. Against them, on Staten Island, Generals Clinton and Cornwallis had 24,000 of the best disciplined, healthy and well-fed soldiers in the world. Clinton was preparing to go over into Long Island, and then attack Washington, who divining the purpose of the British, sent a considerable part of his army across East River to Long Island and placed General Greene in command to meet Clinton's army. Among the troops who went over were General Sullivan's brigade, one regiment of which was Lieut. Colonel Cilley's, the Third New Hampshire. Previous to the battle August 27, 1776, there were several days of manoeuvring by both armies to get in touch. General Greene was taken sick and General Sullivan took his place for a while, then General Putnam was put in chief command and held it until the defeat and retreat were completed. It is not the purpose of this article to describe the battle in detail. Suffice to say that when Sullivan was surprised and taken prisoner, Lieut.-Colonel Cilley's regiment and most of the other New Hampshire troops fought their way through the British lines which surrounded them and retreated successfully across East River to New York. That was the first actual fighting in battle in which Cilley was engaged, and he showed himself to be a brave, fearless and skillful officer.

General Carleton compelled Washington to begin his retreat out of New York City September 13 1776. He crossed the Hudson to New Jersey and through that State to Pennsylvania; Cilley and the other New Hampshire troops were with him. Then followed the battle of Trenton December 26, 1776, and the battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777. When the British had driven Washington's army across the Delaware River General Howe felt sure that the

back of the "rebellion" was broken, and his army was taking things easy, encamped along the Jersey bank of the Delaware. Lieut. Colonel Cilley was with his old Durham friend, General Sullivan, when Washington's army crossed the Delaware, and on that cold winter night when the ice was forming and its surface was covered with floating pieces. The current was swift and the night was dark. Towards midnight a storm of snow and sleet set in and through this they crossed to the Jersey shore. This must have reminded Sullivan and Cilley of the capture they had together made at Fort William and Mary at New Castle two years before. After crossing the river Sullivan marched his part of the army along the road by the river, and the capture of the British force at Trenton soon followed; the grand victory need not be further described here; Sullivan and Cilley were among the heroes.

At Princeton, where Washington outgeneralled Cornwallis by the brilliant camp fires and shrewdly managed flank movement of his army, the New Hampshire troops under Colonels Stark, Reid and Poor were in the thick of the fight and put to flight the British 55th and 40th regiments, which ended the battle. That Lieut. Colonel Cilley did his share of the fighting is a certain fact. Washington then marched his army to Morristown and went into winter quarters, the New Hampshire regiments being with him. During January and February, 1777, these regiments were reorganized. Col. John Stark becoming indignant because Col. Enoch Poor was appointed brigadier general over him by Congress, would not serve longer as Colonel of the First Regiment. So Lieut. Colonel Cilley of the Third Regiment was appointed Colonel of the First Regiment in place of Stark, April 2, 1777.

#### SERVICE AS COLONEL OF THE FIRST N. H. REGIMENT

Joseph Cilley was promoted to Colonel of the First New Hampshire Regiment February 22, 1777; he received

his commission from congress April 2, 1777, he being then at Morristown, New Jersey; soon after he marched with his regiment to Ticonderoga, as part of General Poor's Brigade. This move was made necessary by the news that a large British force was on the march from Canada to that place, via Lake Champlain and Crown Point. It was said that General Burgoyne had it in mind to march down through Vermont and New Hampshire to Boston and recapture what the British had been compelled to give up when Washington forced them to evacuate that town March 17, 1776.

Colonel Cilley encamped his regiment in the "Old French Lines," in May, having tents for their habitations. The regiments of Colonels Scammell and Dearborn were compatriots on the same beautiful camping ground, and General Enoch Poor was in command at Ticonderoga. It is fortunate for the historian that one man of Colonel Cilley's regiment kept a daily record of the events in which the regiment participated for three years from May 13, 1777, to May, 1781. That man was Thomas Blake, of Lebanon, N. H., who was Lieutenant of one of the companies. The diary was published in 1868 by Mr. Frederick Kidder of Boston. Lieutenant Blake started on his journey from Lebanon May 14, and reached Fort Independence, on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain, May 21, and joined his regiment that day. He says it was a very hard tramp of seven days over very bad roads.

General Poor was superseded in command of Ticonderoga, June 11, by Major-General St. Clair. The enemy had begun to make their appearance then, and Colonel Cilley's regiment had its first encounter with the advance guard, on June 17, the second anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, in which the regiment had taken a conspicuous and important part, under command of its first Colonel, John Stark, Cilley not then being a member of the regiment. In that first encounter Colonel Cilley's men did not suffer loss, but they killed one of the enemy and

dispersed the rest. On June 30, the enemy began to arrive in force, in numerous boats, landing troops on both sides of the Lake and stationing their ships across the water from shore to shore. On July 1st the enemy got possession of Mt. Hope, about one mile from Colonel Cilley's regiment, and the next day the regiment had a sharp encounter with the enemy; five of our men were killed, four were wounded and one man was taken prisoner; Colonel Cilley's son Jonathan, a boy of fifteen years who was serving as an aid on his father's staff. The boy was retained as a prisoner for a while, but when General Burgoyne learned that he was the son of a colonel of a New Hampshire regiment he granted him a pass to return to the American lines and permitted him to select any article of clothing he might desire from the large amount Burgoyne's men had captured from the American army, when it beat such a hasty retreat from Ticonderoga. Jonathan was also provided with an old horse and a pair of saddle bags containing proclamations by Burgoyne, ordering the rebel Americans to surrender. He overtook his father somewhere on the line of retreat from Lake Champlain to North River. Colonel Cilley took one of the proclamations and read it aloud in the presence of his regiment; then ordering all of the circulars to be torn in pieces and scattered to the wind, he said:

"Thus may the British Army be scattered!"

During this disastrous retreat, at night, when everything was in confusion, Gen. Kosciuszko, not being able to find his own horse, took the first that came in his way. It belonged to Adjutant Caleb Stark of Colonel Cilley's staff. When Stark came for his horse and not finding it where he left it, proceeded on foot until daylight, when he discovered the Polish general mounted on his horse and demanded his property, which the other refused to give up. Kosciuszko was a highly educated military officer, then 31 years old; Stark was a youth of 18 years; the Polish officer was very impulsive, and young Stark was a "chip of the old

block," having served with his father at the battle of Bunker Hill; high words ensued between the Pole and the Yankee. Stark challenged him to fight a duel; Kosciuszko replied, that "a subaltern is not of sufficient rank to meet a brigadier general."—"If he is not," said a person coming up on foot, "I am. This officer, general, is my adjutant, the horse is his property, and his demand is a proper one." "Ah, Colonel Cilley," replied the general, "if that is the case I will give up the horse." The adjutant recovered his horse; but in half an hour afterward, Colonel Cilley, who had lost his own horse, said, "Stark, I am tired, you must lend me your horse," which request was cheerfully complied with, as Cilley was a man of 43 years. That retreat from Ticonderoga and the summer campaign on the upper part of the Hudson river, was a very trying time to the regiment and its officers.

The abandonment of Ticonderoga began very suddenly, as the enemy came upon the Americans in an unexpected, and as was supposed, impossible quarter. On the night of July 6, Lieutenant Blake says, "The First Regiment was ordered to strike its tents about one o'clock in the morning, and parade as soon as possible with packs and provisions. As soon as we were paraded we marched over Mt. Independence, where we found all in moving posture, the boats and batteaux chiefly loaded, the provisions not all taken in, the clothing chests all broken open, the clothing scattered about and carried off by all who were disposed to take, and everything in great confusion. About sunrise the last of the boats and the rear guard left the Mount, by which time the enemy were in the 'French lines.' The body of the army marched as far as Castleton, which is about 30 miles, and the rear guard with the men who could not keep up with the body, tarried at Hubbardtown six miles back."

Colonel Cilley's regiment was not of the number that "tarried at Hubbardtown" and had a lively fight with the advance guard of the enemy, but kept on and after a very

fatiguing march of five days came to North or Hudson River, along the banks of which, several weeks later, occurred the battles which led to the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. From that date to September 10, the regiment was engaged in hard work, along the river, at various points, but they had no fighting to do with the enemy. On Sept. 10, Lieutenant Blake says:—"We began to fortify on the heights back of Stillwater, and built a floating bridge across the river, etc." On the 12th they marched up the river about three miles, and encamped on the high ground, about half a mile from the river, known by the name of Bemis's Heights, where they fortified, the enemy then being at Saratoga. There they prepared, with the rest of the army, for the first great battle with Burgoyne, which took place on the 19th and concerning which Lieutenant Blake very modestly says:

"About 12 o'clock (noon) the First New Hampshire Regiment marched out to meet the enemy. We met them about one mile from our encampment, where the engagement began very closely, and continued about 20 minutes, in which time we lost so many men, and received no reinforcement, that we were obliged to retreat, but before we got to the encampment we met two regiments coming out as a re-enforcement, when we returned and renewed the attack, which continued very warm until dark, at which time we withdrew and retired to our encampment. In this engagement the enemy had two field pieces in the field, which we took three or four times, but as it was in the woods, they were not removed."

# General Joseph Cilley

## V

By JOHN SCALES, A. B., A. M.

SERVICE IN THE FIRST N. H. REGIMENT—(*Continued*)

A BRIEF of the battle may better show just what Colonel Cilley did with his regiment, At 11 o'clock A. M., the booming of cannon in Burgoyne's army gave the signal that he was about to advance on the American lines. At noon General Arnold gave the order, by permission of General Gates, to Col. Daniel Morgan, commander of the famous regiment of riflemen, and to Colonels Cilley, Dearborn and Scammell of the New Hampshire regiments, to attack the Canadians and Indians, who were swarming on the hills in advance of Burgoyne's right. These were driven back and pursued. Morgan's riflemen became scattered, were recalled, and with the New England troops under Cilley, Dearborn and Scammell, another furious charge was made. After a sharp engagement in which Morgan's horse was shot under him, the combatants withdrew to their respective lines. Meanwhile Burgoyne had moved rapidly upon the American center and left. At the same time the vigilant Arnold attempted to turn the British right. Masked by thick woods, neither party was now certain of the movements of the other and they suddenly and unexpectedly met in a ravine at Freeman's Farm, at which Burgoyne had halted. There the battle raged desperately for awhile. Arnold was pressed back, when Fraser, by a quick movement, called up some German troops from the British center to his aid. Arnold rallied his men, and with New England troops led by Colonels Cilley, Dearborn, Scammell

and others, struck the enemy with such heavy blows that his lines began to waver and fall into confusion. The British received re-enforcements and the battle continued. The British ranks were becoming fearfully thinned, when Riedesel fell heavily upon the American flank with infantry and artillery and they gave way. A lull in the battle succeeded, but at the middle of the afternoon the contest was renewed with greater fury. At length the British, fearfully assailed by bullet and bayonet, recoiled and fell back. It was there that General Arnold was in the battle against General Gates's orders, and the victory was saved for the American army. For three hours the battle raged. Like an ocean tide the warriors surged backward and forward, winning and losing victory alternately. Night closed the contest and both armies rested on their arms until morning, when both withdrew to their own lines. That ended the battle at Bemis's Heights.

The Battle at Stillwater, two miles away, followed on October 7, of which Lieutenant Blake says in his Journal:

"A detachment of the enemy marched upon the left of our army, consisting of the grenadiers and light infantry, with six field pieces and posted themselves on a small height in a cleared field, about a quarter of a mile from our advance guard, where they began a cannonade upon the riflemen, and the three New Hampshire regiments were ordered out to attack them, and after a very warm dispute of about half an hour, the enemy were obliged to quit the field and retreat to their works, which they did in great confusion, their horses being chiefly killed, and were obliged to leave their field pieces which fell into our hands, together with about 50 prisoners, and our army followed hard after them, and coming on the lines where the German were stationed, forced them and took a number of prisoners, two field pieces and several waggons loaded with ammunition and baggage and by the time we had what we had taken at the line it was almost dark and the troops that had been in action were relieved by fresh troops from our encampment,

who tarried at the lines we had taken all night, the British lying about a hundred rods distant. The next day the enemy moved their baggage and artillery back from their front lines, and in the night marched their whole army to Saratoga, leaving their sick and wounded in some large hospital tents, with several surgeons to attend them."

From full reports of the battle it appears that on October 7, 1777, the whole British army moved from their quarters at Saratoga, towards the left wing of the American army, where Colonel Cilley was. Burgoyne pressed with 1,500 picked men, eight brass cannon, and two howitzers, leaving his main army on the heights, in command of Brigadiers Sprecht and Hamilton, and the redoubts near the river with Brigadier-General Hall. This movement was discerned before the British were ready for battle. The drums of the American advance guard beat to arms. The alarm ran all along the lines. General Gates inquired the cause of the alarm, and then ordered Colonel Morgan, with his sharpshooting riflemen to "begin the game."

Morgan soon gained a good position on the British right, while General Poor with his New Hampshire brigade, followed by General Ten Broeck with New Yorkers advanced against their left. It was between three and four o'clock in the afternoon when General Poor and those with him astonished General Burgoyne, as he was about to advance, by thunder of cannon on his left, and the crack of rifles on his right. Poor had pressed up the thick wooded slope unobserved on which the British forces under command of Majors Acland and Williams were posted. The British did not observe the New Hampshire troops until they were near the batteries, which were captured after a struggle, in which the leader of the British grenadiers was severely wounded, and Major Williams of the artillery was made prisoner. Five times one of the cannon was taken and retaken. When the British fell back, and the gun remained with the Americans, Colonel

Cilley leaped upon it, waved his sword over his head, dedicated the piece to the "American Cause," and, turning it upon the foe, he opened its destructive energy upon the enemy with their own ammunition, amid an avalanche of applause from the New Hampshire brigade, and others who saw the act.

Sir Francis Clarke, Burgoyne's chief aide, who was sent to secure the cannon, was mortally wounded by it and made prisoner, and was sent to Gates's tent. The whole eight cannon and the possession of the field remained with the Americans. That was Colonel Cilley's part in that remarkable battle which caused the surrender of Burgoyne's whole army ten days later, October 17, at Saratoga, at which Colonel Cilley took a conspicuous part.

That was the end of Colonel Cilley's military campaign of 1777. He went south with his regiment by slow marches, and finally went into camp at Valley Forge, December 23, 1777.

#### COL. CILLEY AT VALLEY FORGE AND MONMOUTH

On November 21, 1777, Colonel Cilley marched his regiment, in General Sullivan's brigade, to Whitemarsh, a beautiful valley about 13 miles from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and there he joined the main army under command of General Washington. December 5, early in the morning, he had information that the greater part of the British army was leaving Philadelphia to meet Washington's army; upon receiving this news, Colonel Cilley, with the rest of the brigade, had his regiment strike their tents and load them into wagons, together with their baggage, and moved off, and the army paraded. In the afternoon the enemy appeared on an eminence in front of them, but at a distance of three miles, where they remained all night, and Washington's army held its position, awaiting and expecting to be attacked. December 6, the British marched towards the left of the American army, but made no attack, while Washington's army remained under arms

all day. On the 7th a few shots were exchanged but no battle. On the 8th the American army remained quietly under arms all day and night, up to 2 o'clock on the morning of the 9th, when the rifle regiment and three brigades marched out in order to attack the enemy on their own grounds at daybreak; when the British saw them coming prepared for battle they moved off towards Philadelphia.

On the morning of December 11, about an hour before day, Colonel Cilley, with others, received orders to prepare his regiment for a march, about daybreak, to meet a party of the enemy who were foraging on the other side of the Schuylkill river. They marched about ten miles and came to a bridge; two brigades crossed; the rest were following, but the enemy met them and took possession of the heights in front, and of each side of the road leading from the bridge; this move compelled our army to retreat over the river again, and there halted, so that neither army dared to attempt to cross the river. Colonel Cilley kept his regiment there until almost night, when he, with a part of the army, marched up the river to Sweed's ford, two miles, to prevent the enemy from crossing at that place. While there, on the 12th, about sunset, some of the American horsemen brought into camp two Hessians they had taken, who gave intelligence that there were about 4,000 of the enemy over the Schuylkill after forage; General Sullivan, who was in command of the brigade of which Cilley's regiment was a part, immediately crossed the river and marched in pursuit of the enemy; on reaching the Gulph mills he learned that the enemy had returned to Philadelphia with their plunder. General Sullivan and his brigade remained there until December 16, when the whole army marched to Valley Forge and proceeded to encamp for the winter.

When all had reached there, the grounds were staked out on the 23d for the army to build log huts in which to pass the winter; there were about 11,000 men to be provided for, which work required about a week to get the vil-

lage in order; the huts were built of round logs and most of them were covered with straw and earth; they were in two lines, extending from the Schuylkill river about a mile and a half. This locality is about 22 miles from Independence Hall. In the beginning of February each brigade was ordered to build a breastwork in front of their own huts, which was done in a few days. The whole army lay there, except two brigades at Washington, down the Delaware river, and also about three hundred men at Reednar, 7 miles from camp; and 200 at Gulph Mills, about the same distance; each of these two last-named parties was relieved every week. There were likewise guards kept about one mile distant from camp, which formed a chain of sentinels around the whole encampment; these were relieved daily. The army lay in this posture during the winter and until May, 1778. No attack was made on them; but it was an awful winter which Colonel Cilley and his men had to endure.

That place was chosen because it was farther from the dangers of sudden attack from the enemy, and also it could more easily afford protection for the Congress sitting at York, having been driven out at Philadelphia, which was then occupied by the British army. Bloodstains made by the lacerated feet of its poorly shod soldiers, marked the line of their march to Valley Forge. In the camp they suffered with cold and often had very short rations, for food was as scarce as their clothing was poor.

The British, under General Howe, had full possession of Philadelphia and of the Delaware river below, and Pennsylvania was divided among its people, and in its Legislature, by political factions. General uneasiness prevailed; and when Washington sought refuge at Valley Forge, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted a remonstrance against the measure. To this cruel missive Washington replied, after censuring the quartermaster-general (Mifflin), a Pennsylvanian, for neglect of duty in not supplying the soldiers with proper food and clothing, he says:

"For the want of a two-days supply of provisions, an opportunity scarcely ever offered of taking an advantage of the enemy, that has not been either totally obstructed or greatly impeded. Men are confined in hospitals or in farmers' houses for want of shoes. We have this day (Dec. 23) no less than 2,873 men in camp unfit for duty because they are barefooted and otherwise naked. Our whole strength in continental troops amounts to no more than 8,200 in camp fit for duty. Since the 4th inst. our numbers fit for duty, from hardships and exposures, have decreased nearly 2,000 men. Numbers are still obliged to sit all night by their campfires to keep from freezing. Gentlemen reprobates going into winter quarters as much as if they thought the soldiers were made of sticks or stones. I can assure those gentlemen that it is a much easier and less distressing thing to draw remonstrances in a comfortable room, by a good fireside, than to occupy a cold, bleak hill, and sleep under frost and snow without clothes or blankets. However, although they seem to have little feeling for the naked and distressed soldiers, I feel superabundantly for them; and from my soul I pity those miseries which is neither in my power to relieve, or prevent."

That is what General Washington said, and thus we have the picture of the scenes and conditions which Colonel Cilley and his soldiers had to endure until the warm weather of spring. On May 6 a great rejoicing prevailed in the camp on account of the news of the alliance of France. Washington ordered all the prisoners to be released that were then in confinement in the Continental Army. The whole army was drawn up in two lines and fired a volley, from right to left of the front, and then from left to right of the rear lines; which was repeated three times. It was a great day of rejoicing, especially for Colonel Cilley's regiment whose men had suffered severely from sickness, but had now largely recovered.

In the battle of Monmouth which followed on June 28, Colonel Cilley's regiment was closely engaged and he

and his men behaved with such bravery as to merit the particular approbation of the illustrious Washington after the battle was over and the treachery of Gen. Charles Lee was thwarted, he having ordered a retreat when an advance should have been made against General Howe's Army, which was on its march from Philadelphia to New York. It was when Washington met Lee on that retreat that the illustrious commander showed his temper at its white heat and bestowed on the traitorous commander some righteous oaths, as became the occasion. No doubt Colonel Cilley applauded as Washington swore.

Lieutenant Thomas Blake says in his Journal of that period: "June 18 . . . At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Gen. Lee's division marched, consisting of Gen. Poor's, Varnum's and Huntington's brigades three miles over Schuylkill bridge and encamped."—"June 19, . . . Marched 18 miles."—"June 20, . . . At 12 o'clock we came to the Delaware river, and crossed at Carrell's ferry; marched 3 miles and encamped in Amwell."—"June 21, . . . Gen. Lee's division lay still, and Gen. Washington crossed the river (Delaware) and another division of the army."—"June 22 . . . The whole army crossed the river and encamped in Amwell, excepting a party (under Gen. Arnold) that marched to take possession of Philadelphia, from which Howe's army had departed." "June 23, . . . The whole army marched down towards the enemy, leaving the tents and baggage, as far as Hopewell township, and halted; but Col. Morgan with his regiment of riflemen and a detachment under his command, marched toward the enemy."

"June 24. . . . The army lay still; the tents came up and were pitched; a detachment went forward under Gen. Scott."

"June 25 . . . March to Kingston, and another detachment went forward under command of Marquis Lafayette."

"June 26 . . . Marched to Cranberry Town and Gen. Lee went forward with two brigades."

"June 27. . . . Marched to Cranberry meadows."

"June 28. . . . Marched to English town and there left our packs and coats, the weather being very warm, and proceeded as fast as possible in pursuit of the enemy, who were then near Monmouth Court House. The forward detachment had attacked the enemy, and Gen. Washington met them on the retreat, about one and a half miles from the Court House. Our artillery set in very briskly, causing a heavy cannonade on both sides, holding for some time until the enemy retreated. Our army pursued about a mile, and then left them. The enemy encamped that night near the Court House; and in the night moved off, leaving all their wounded that were not able to march, numbering about 60, of whom were five commissioned officers."

"June 29, . . . Two brigades marched down to the Court House, as a covering party while they buried the dead. The number of those buried were about three hundred, that of ours sixty. After the dead were buried the whole army marched back to Englishtown."

"June 30. . . . Lay still at Englishtown."

"July 1, . . . The whole army marched to Spotwod, the weather being so excessively hot, the road for the most part being through Pitch pine plain, that near one third of the men were so overcome that they were obliged to stop, many were not able to march until the cool of the evening, and some were so overcome that they were obliged to be conveyed in wagons."

This was the end of Colonel Cilley's regiment's conflict with the enemy in 1778. By various routes they marched from time to time, through New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, to Redding in that State, where they arrived December 2, built huts, went into camp and spent the winter comfortably and quietly. For a while in November General Poor's brigade, of which Colonel Cilley's regiment was a part, had charge of German troops that were captured with General Burgoyne, they being on

their way to Virginia. Colonel Cilley's next campaign began in May, 1779.

COLONEL JOSEPH CILLEY IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE  
NEW YORK INDIANS

Colonel Cilley's regiment remained in camp at Redding, Conn., from December 4, 1778, until the 10th of April, 1779, and then marched to the high lands on North River, where they went into huts and remained until May 9, when they broke camp and marched to Easton, Penn. Arriving here on the 18th, they took quarters in the Court House and other spare buildings. On the 19th General Sullivan arrived and took command of the Western army, which had been assembled there. The time from that date to the 29th of May was spent in getting things in order for the difficult march against the Indians. On the 28th they marched 12 miles to Wyoming; on the 29th they marched 15 miles to Pocono Point; on the 30th they went 10 miles to Tuckhannock; on the 31st they marched six miles to Locust Hill, where Colonel Cilley's regiment came up with Colonel Courtland and Colonel Spencer's regiments, who were cutting a road through to Wyoming. They pitched their tents and went to work with those regiments cutting trees and making corduroy paths where necessary. They worked on this road building until June 7, when they moved their tents forward eight miles; June 9 they moved the tents forward two miles and encamped June 11 they moved their tents forward five miles to Bullock's house, where the tents remained three days. On the 14th they marched seven miles to Wyoming, having made the distance of 65 miles through the forests from Easton. On June 17th Colonels Cilley's, Courtland's and Spencer's regiments marched up the river to Jacob's Plains, four miles and encamped and remained so until June 23, when General Sullivan arrived with five regiments. On July 4, Colonels Cilley's and Courtland's regiments crossed the river and marched down two miles towards

Wyoming and encamped with the rest of General Poor's brigade.

On July 5 General Poor made an entertainment for the officers of his brigade in honor of the Declaration of Independence, and after dinner the following toasts were drunk, and appropriate responses were made by various officers: 1. The United States. 2. July 4, 1776, the memorable. 3. The grand council of America. 4. General Washington and the Army. 5. The King and Queen of France. 6. General Sullivan and the Western expedition. 7. May the Councillors of America be wise, and their soldiers invincible. 8. A successful and decisive campaign. 9. Civilization or death to all savages. 10. The immortal memory of those heroes who have fallen in defense of American liberty. 11. May the husbandman's cottage be blessed with peace, and his fields with plenty. 12. Vigor and virtue to all the sons and daughters of America. 13. May the New World be the last asylum of freedom and the arts. Among the speakers who responded to the sentiments were General Sullivan and Colonel Cilley. This is the first recorded celebration of the 4th of July.

On July 27 General Poor's Brigade, of which Cilley's regiment was a part, marched down to Wyoming and encamped with the rest of the army. Four days were spent there in getting ready to begin the march up the river, and on the 31st they marched ten miles to Lacawaneck. August 1, they marched seven miles to Quilutmack and met with so much difficulty in passing some large mountains that ran down to the river, that the rear of the army did not come up with the advance until the next morning, for which reason General Poor's brigade remained in camp there a second day; then they continued on their journey about 12 miles a day, till August 11, when they forded the river and marched to Tioga Point, five miles and there encamped on the point between the Seneca and Tioga branches. Now they had reached the

Indian country and began to put everything in order for a fight. They had cut a road through the forests about 175 miles from Easton, Penn., a very difficult and wearisome job.

General Sullivan gave orders, toward night of August 12 for the army to march. Poor's regiment left Tioga just after sunset, with one day's provisions, leaving their tents standing, with the baggage in them; a few men were left on guard who were least able to work. Cilley's regiment, with Poor's brigade, marched all night; it was very dark and the travelling was very difficult. Just at day break, on the morning of August 13, they reached Chemung, a small Indian village, 14 miles from Tioga; the Indians became alarmed and ran away before the army could surround the settlement and capture them by surprise, as General Sullivan had planned should be done. They had previously removed all of their women and children, leaving only about fifty of their warriors as a guard, under command of Butler, the Tory leader and Brant the head man of the Five Nation's Warriors. The Indians had large fields of green corn about there, and Colonel Cilley's men with the others, gathered a lot of the ears for roasting purposes, as they were quite hungry, after their hard march all night. While they were picking off the ears the Indians, in ambush, attacked them, and killed one or two men and wounded several more. Colonel Cilley promptly rallied his men and rushed for the enemy, who fled in great haste. The army then set to work and burned all the buildings in the village, about twenty, and destroyed all of the cornfields and other garden stuff, cutting and throwing it into heaps. In the afternoon they marched back to Tioga, having accomplished a very fatiguing amount of work in twenty-four hours, without sleep. They had destroyed a large amount of property, but so far as Colonel Cilley observed his men had killed only one Indian and one Tory.

At Tioga they rested three days, waiting for General Clinton's troops from Cherry Valley. August 15 a party

of Indians came down to the south side of the river, opposite the encampment, and fired upon some of Colonel Cilley's men, who were tending cattle. They killed one and wounded another. August 16 Colonel Cilley's regiment, with General Poor's brigade, marched up the river to meet General Clinton's brigade, which had come over from the Mohawk River. They were piloted by some friendly Indians for quite a distance, and then General Poor thought it would be better, and more expeditious, to send three chosen veterans to meet General Clinton and pilot him to meet his brigade. The three men chosen for this purpose were Sergeant Joseph Henderson, Sergeant Thomas Scott, and Peter Stevens, all of whom belonged to the First New Hampshire Regiment commanded by Colonel Cilley.

These fearless heroes, with only three days' rations, set out on their hazardous journey; they got lost in the forests and did not meet Clinton's army, but after wandering about several days they struck the track of Clinton's army and following it arrived at head quarters, after having been absent a dozen days; they were completely exhausted. Meanwhile General Poor's and General Clinton's brigades. succeeded in meeting, and the combined forces arrived at Tioga August 22d.

All preparations having been completed, General Sullivan gave orders to march, three Indians belonging to the Oneida tribe having joined the army to assist as guides. The army advanced into the Seneca country, leaving a garrison of 500 men at Tioga point; they marched four miles that day, six the next, four on the third and four miles on the fourth day, August 29, when the advance guards were fired upon by the enemy from a breastwork they had thrown up, about a quarter of a mile in length, extending from the river to a large range of mountains, which lay parallel with the river; here Sullivan's army halted and prepared for battle.

That march from Tioga, through the inhospitable wilderness, was in the following manner: A hollow square was formed; General Hand's brigade in front, General Poor's brigade on the right; General Maxwell's on the left, and General Clinton's in the rear. Within the hollow square was placed Colonel Procter's regiment of artillery, together with the horses carrying general supplies, also the beef cattle. The regiments marched in platoons, eight deep, and each man had to keep his place, hence the march was slow and fatiguing, but General Sullivan insisted on this order, so that in case of an attack, which was reasonable to be expected at any time, a front of three brigades could be speedily formed.

The breastworks of the Indians were made deceptive by being covered with small pines stuck into the ground. It was Sunday morning, August 29, when this force of the enemy was discovered. After a brief consultation of the officers, General Sullivan ordered General Poor's brigade to march to the rear of the hill, at the foot of which the enemy were behind their breastworks; the brigade marched around about three miles and then began to ascend it; as they did so the Indians, concealed behind trees, sent forth the most hideous yells, which echoed from the opposite mountain sides as though the woods were full of the savage warriors, at the same time they fired on our men. They kept up their war-whoops and shooting as our soldiers advanced, returning the fire; when General Poor's brigade was about half way up the hill, the order was given to charge bayonets, and they did so with a rush and gave the American yell, which sent terror into the enemy and they disappeared as fast as their legs could carry them, completely deserting the breastworks they had so finely planned and constructed. This was the battle of Newton, of which General Sullivan's official account gives minute details. Colonel Cilley led his men in that march up the hill, and was active in the execution of the order from beginning to end of the encounter. His men captured

two prisoners, one negro and one a white man. The latter was found lying on his face and pretending to be dead; but Colonel Cilley punched him a bit, and he proved to be very much alive. His face was blacked, but the rest of his person proved to be white, so they judged him to be a Tory and put a rope around his neck and threatened to hang him; but the threat was not put into execution.

They remained on the battle ground until sunset, when, no enemy being in sight, they returned to the plain and encamped, and sent the wounded down to Tioga in boats. In burying the dead, they burnt brush over the graves, so that the Indians might not distinguish them from the places where the camp fires had been burned.

August 31 they advanced ten miles, and the next day they marched 13 miles to French Katharine's, where they rested a day. Before they started on this march up around the small lakes, General Sullivan had told them they would have very hard work and short rations, and those who thought they were unable to endure it would be permitted to return to the camp at Tioga. Colonel Cilley drew up his regiment in line, and then walked from right to left of it, looked every man in the face, gave each a pleasant word and expressed his fears that some could not endure the march, and he thought it would be better for them to remain behind in camp; but not a man would consent to remain behind. Near the left of the line, Colonel Cilley found a boy, only fifteen years old, and he strongly urged him not to undertake the campaign. The boy begged to be permitted to go forward with the regiment, so finally Colonel Cilley said: *Go my lad, and God go with you,*" The boy, whose name was Richard Drout, went with the regiment and came out all right at the end of the campaign.

It is not necessary to follow that campaign day by day, to show what Colonel Cilley and his regiment did; a few incidents will be given. The Indian and Tory army kept little ahead of Sullivan's advance, and, frequently Col-

Colonel Cilley's regiment came across their camp fires, where they had left boiling their kettles of succotash, which, of course, the soldiers found very acceptable, and disposed of it with much relish. When they came near an Indian village, parties were always sent out to burn the huts and to destroy their corn. Near Geneva lake they encamped in a very large apple orchard, hence they called the place Appleton. There they caught several Indian horses by driving them into the lake, where expert swimmers caught them. They destroyed that orchard completely.

The army was obliged to ford Canandaigua Lake, a short distance from its outlet, where the water was nearly up to the men's shoulders, so each man had to be careful of his powder. Both sides of the crossing were covered with an underbrush of grapevines and thorn bushes, which made the passage very difficult. Colonel Cilley's regiment, being in front of the right wing, was ordered to halt and to see that all guns of the army in passing were well loaded and fresh primed, as the expectation was that the enemy would attack our army as soon as the men emerged from the lake. The crossing was completed about sunset.



# General Joseph Cilley

BY JOHN SCALES, A. B., A. M.

## Conclusion of the New York Campaign Against the Indians

**A**FTER the army had completed the crossing of Lake Candagua, General Sullivan ordered General Hand to go with four regiments and capture a town a mile or more distant. General Hand hesitated and began to make excuses. He thought it would be a useless waste of lives; it would be dark before they could reach the village; in the dark the enemy would have the advantage on all sides and could stampede, or completely destroy the attacking force. Colonel Cilley was sitting on his horse listening to the talk between Sullivan and Hand. He became impatient at the hesitancy and delay; he straightened himself up in his stirrups and exclaimed, in the forceful way he had of saying things: "General Sullivan! give me leave and I will take the town with my regiment alone!"

The general looked at the colonel a moment, and then gave the word, "go!" Colonel Cilley's bugle call was sounded and the regiment was in battle array for marching, just at dusk; before the men got halfway there it was so dark that each soldier was obliged to take hold of his file leader to keep in line and not get lost; thus they marched in Indian file until the village was reached. They found the place deserted; nothing was left for them to fight except swarms of mosquitoes, of which it would seem there were hundreds attacking each man. Under these conditions they encamped for the night, which they spent in fighting mosquitoes and keeping close watch that the wily enemy should not return upon them unprepared to defend themselves. In the early morning they burned everything

that was combustible in the village, and returned to the army, where Colonel Cilley received the thanks of General Sullivan.

The capital of the Five Nations was at Big Tree; when Sullivan's army reached there Colonel Cilley and his regiment witnessed the last scene of that war which completely crushed the power of the Five Nations and the Indians who had greatly aided the British since the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The town contained one hundred and twenty-two houses and wigwams. When all was ready General Sullivan gave the order to destroy it, in every part; make so much a desert no Indian could live in it. So, during one day, the whole army of more than four thousand soldiers were busily engaged in gathering corn from the fields and storing it in the houses. The task was not completed until about noon of the next day, as the crops were immense. The soldiers then struck their tents in the village, and marched out a short distance and halted on a hill which overlooked the town, from which they witnessed a scene unsurpassed in that war of eight years.

Soldiers had been stationed at each house, with torches. At the firing of a signal gun every house was set on fire, and all were consumed with the contents, leaving only huge heaps of roasted corn. Colonel Cilley was accustomed to say, in after years, that the sight of so many buildings on fire, the massy clouds of black smoke, the curling pillars of flame bursting through them, formed the most awful and sublime spectacle he ever witnessed. Awful as it were, it was trifling in comparison with the inhuman barbarities those Indians had inflicted on American citizens during the preceding years of the war.

The army then commenced their return march to Tioga Point, where they arrived in a very needy condition on September 30. When they started on the march up through the Indian country they left the principal part of their clothing at the fort, by general order; they were allowed to carry no more than they wore, with the exception of one

spare shirt. The suits consisted of a short rifle frock, vest, shirt, tow trousers, stockings, shoes and blanket. Marching nearly the whole time in the woods, among thick underbrush, their whole suit became fearfully worn. Many of the men returned barefooted, and became very footsore. Thus in rags and tatters they arrived at the fort, having completed one of the most remarkable campaigns of the Revolutionary War.

They remained at Tioga Point until October 4 and on that day marched fourteen miles towards Wyoming (the modern town of Wilkesbarre). They arrived at that place October 7, about noon. From there they marched to Easton where they arrived October 15, and encamped near the river. There they received the report of the committee appointed by General Sullivan, (of which Colonel Cilley was a member), to estimate the quantity of corn destroyed by the army, that belonged to the Indians. It was computed at one hundred and sixty-five thousand bushels. Whilst there they were ordered to attend divine service, under arms, in a large meadow, to return thanks for the signal success of the expedition, and the unparalleled health of the troops. A discourse was delivered by the Rev. Ira Evans of Concord, N. H.

On October 27 Colonel Cilley's regiment commenced its march towards North River, and on November 25 they arrived at its south bank and crossed over to the New York side. Then they kept on their journey, by slow marches, until they arrived at their winter quarters in Connecticut, at a place about half way between Danbury and Newton. They began to build their huts December 3, and finished the job in about fifteen days, making everything very comfortable for the cold winter that followed. They remained in camp there until April 6, 1780, when they broke camp and marched for West Point; they remained there until August 4. It is worthy of note here that Colonel Cilley's son-in-law, Col. Thomas Bartlett of Nottingham, was there at West Point at the same time in command of another New Hampshire regiment.

Colonel Cilley's regiment left West Point August 4, and after crossing the river, by short marches each day they arrived, August 8, at Tappan, Orangetown, where the whole army encamped and remained there until August 23, when the army marched down to Jenerich, N. J., opposite the upper end of Manhattan Island. September 17, General Washington went on a journey to Hartford, Conn., and left the command of the army to Major General Greene. Three days later General Greene moved the army up the river to Tappan and they pitched their tents on the old camping ground.

Five days later, September 25, they were apprised of General Arnold's plot, and of his escape, and of the capture of Major Andre. Colonel Cilley with his regiment left Tappan, with the four brigades, October 6, under command of General Greene, and marched to Haverstraw. On October 8 Colonel Cilley encamped his regiment on Constitutional Island, opposite West Point. The Second New Hampshire regiment also encamped there. October 25, 1780, they crossed the river and marched to Soldiers Fortune, where they built their huts and encamped for the winter, but they were called out to the lines many times by alarms of the enemy, so had a rather wide awake winter of it without any fighting. The winter was unusually severe, and the soldiers were often on the point of starvation, and were for days without meat, and nearly all the time on short allowance, while most of them had received no pay for about a year. As for clothing they were often so destitute that many of them could not do guard duty without borrowing from their comrades, while for shoes they were still more deficient, and parties who were on fatigue duty for firewood and forage could often be tracked by the blood from their bruised feet.

# General Joseph Cilley

By JOHN SCALES, A. B., A. M.

## His Career After He Left Command of the First Regiment

**C**OLONEL CILLEY ceased to be commander of this famous First New Hampshire regiment January 1, 1781, in accordance of a general order issued by General Washington, dated "Headquarters, Totoway, November 1, 1780," by which the three regiments of New Hampshire were reduced to two, and Alexander Scammell was appointed Colonel in place of Cilley whose term had expired, he having been in command of it since April 2, 1777, a period of three years and nine months. Not only that but his real service in the army began in June, 1775, making nearly five years and a half of service in behalf of the cause of his country.

That his State was not unmindful of his service is shown by a vote of the assembly, March 16, 1779, when a resolution was passed unanimously "that the worthy Colonel Joseph Cilley be presented with a pair of pistols as a token of this State's good intention toward merit in a brave officer." Colonel Cilley carried those pistols in the campaign against the Indians in New York, in which he was soon engaged. They are now in possession of his descendants, perhaps in Manchester.

In previous notices of Colonel Cilley's military career it is stated that "he was in the storming of Stony Point." That statement is incorrect, because that battle occurred on July 16, 1779, and the record shows that Colonel Cilley was then in command of his regiment, in General Sullivan's army, then on the march against the Indians in New York.

Before giving Col. Cilley's career after he ceased to be colonel of the First Regiment, it seems proper to sketch an outline of the closing years of that regiment with which he was long connected. The final discharge of its companies occurred on June 22, 1784.

Maj. Asa Bird Gardner, Professor of Law in the West Point U. S. Military Academy, who prepared a Register of the American Army from the Peace of 1783 to 1790, says: "In 1779-80 New Hampshire had as her quota three 'regular' Continental regiments in the service of the United States. On the 3d and 21st day of October, Congress resolved to reorganize and consolidate the army, to take effect January 1, 1781, and by the same resolution New Hampshire's quota was reduced to two regiments."

Accordingly on January 1, 1781, under General Washington's general order, dated Army Headquarters, Totoway, November 1, 1780, the three regiments of New Hampshire were reduced to two, and Col. Joseph Cilley of the First New Hampshire was retired and succeeded by Col. Alexander Scammell of the Third Regiment whose officers had become supernumerary by its abolishment.

In like manner, by resolutions of Congress, another consolidation took place January 1, 1783, and the Second Regiment was disbanded and consolidated into the ranks of the First.

On November 3, 1783, all of the Continental Army was disbanded, except such as General Washington especially designated to remain in the service. The First New Hampshire was especially honored by the Commander-in-chief and it took part in the ceremonies in New York attending the evacuation of the British Army, November 25, 1783. It then returned to duty at West Point.

The last official act of General Washington, prior to resigning his commission, was to designate what troops should be retained after the first of January, 1784. Accordingly Major-General Knox, in General Orders dated Army Headquarters, West Point, December 23, 1783,

designated a small artillery force and detachments from the Massachusetts line, together with Captain Frye's and Captain Potter's companies of the First New Hampshire, to remain in the service.

These two companies and the Massachusetts companies were organized into a regiment under command of Col. Henry Jackson, constituting the Fourth Massachusetts Continental Infantry. Thus the First New Hampshire ceased to exist, *eo nomine*, after a continuous service of eight years and eight months. The two companies remained in the service five months longer, until June 22, 1784, when they, with the rest of the army, were honorably discharged. It is gratifying to every son and daughter of New Hampshire to know that the First Regiment, commanded by Stark at Bunker Hill, Cilley at Saratoga, and Scammell at Yorktown, received the distinction of being especially designated by Washington to be retained in service at the close of the war, and that it had the longest continuous service of any regiment in the Continental Army, that is nine years and one month.

After Colonel Cilley left the army he entered actively into matters of town and state and took a hand in his private business affairs which had been managed by his oldest son, Bradbury, and his very able and accomplished wife, Sarah Longfellow, daughter of Judge Jonathan Longfellow, who died at Machias, Me., in 1774, being the first justice to hold a court east of the Kennebec River. The mother and son had managed business successfully, and when the colonel added his energy to theirs, the affairs of the farm and the household prospered in every way. After the close of the war in 1783 the militia of New Hampshire was organized under the direction of Gen. John Sullivan, who also prepared a new book of tactics for the use of the state, and he was appointed Major-General, entering upon the duties of that office in 1785; at the same time Colonel Cilley was appointed Brigadier-General. Also he was appointed Justice of the Peace and Quorum for Rockingham

County ; later, his authority was extended throughout the state, and he continued to hold the office to the end of life.

When General Sullivan became President of the state in 1786 he appointed his old friend and compatriot, Colonel Cilley, Major-General, and at the same time appointed Col. Thomas Bartlett, son-in-law to Col. Cilley, Brigadier-General. They held those offices continuously until the close of 1792, when Cilley declined to serve longer and Bartlett was promoted to be Major-General and held the office by reappointments until the end of the century. Both had been very active and efficient in the Revolution ; they were equally as active and efficient in organizing and managing state affairs in the remaining years of the century.

At the Presidential election in 1788 General Cilley, as he was then everywhere known, was candidate for elector and received 528 votes ; there were ten candidates ; the state was entitled to six electors, and as his was next to the lowest vote cast he failed to be elected. In 1789 he was candidate for state Senator, but failed of election. He was candidate again the next year and was elected and served from June 2, 1790, to June 2, 1791. As a member of the General Court he took an active and influential part. He was in favor of honest dealing and against trickery and claptrap legislation, every time a vote was taken on any question. During his term of service as Senator steps were taken to organize academies in various towns of the state, one of which was Atkinson. In the petitions asking for charters there was always a section asking permission to raise £1000 by lottery for the benefit of the institutions. General Cilley opposed the lottery schemes, as dishonest dealing, and voted nay when the question was decided. It was a sample of how he voted on other questions. In the June session of the General Court of 1792 he was Representative for his town and served on important committees. In the November election of 1792 he was again candidate for presidential elector, but failed to be elected, being seventh on the list, and only six could be elected.

When political parties began to evolve under Washington's second administration, and the people began to line up under the leadership of Jefferson and Hamilton, General Cilley endorsed the former, and, as time went on, he became a very staunch anti-Federalist. He strenuously opposed some of the measures advocated by Washington, although he greatly admired him as a military chieftain, and they were most cordial friends to the end of life, both dying in the same year, Cilley in August and Washington in December. When John Adams came into the Presidential office General Cilley became still more radical in his political views, and was fierce in his opposition to Adams. As regarded the French Revolution he always took sides with the Revolutionists. Being a personal friend and admirer of General Lafayette he hoped the Revolutionists would win, but nothing would arouse his temper quicker than to call him a member of the "French Party." With the most haughty disdain he disclaimed entertaining foreign ideas and "entangling alliances." It was said that in securing appointments to office he did not always favor the candidates of his own party; if he thought his party man was not so well qualified for the place as the opposing candidate he would favor the latter. Moreover he had his strong likes and dislikes; if he did not like a man he was pretty sure to think him unfit for office.

General Cilley was a man of great business capacity; he had wide experience, good judgment and keen insight, which produced good results. He had a strong attachment for property, but would not tolerate or participate in dishonest dealings to acquire it, nor oppress the poor. His eldest son Bradbury had served on his father's staff, and was known as Major Cilley. The father and son always worked together harmoniously in business, so that the two came to be among the most prominent and prosperous business men of Rockingham County, and they accumulated much wealth. At his death he left his sons well settled in business and a very valuable estate for his family.

With General Sullivan he was leader in organizing the Order of Cincinnati in New Hampshire, at Exeter, in November, 1783. He was elected its treasurer; in July, 1784, he was elected vice-president; later he was elected president and he kept a deep interest in the order as long as he lived. His great grandson, Gen. Jonathan Prince Cilley, of Maine, is his successor in that society now (1911.)

General Cilley was a man of strong passions, but he always kept them under control and would not knowingly deal unjustly with his neighbors or his opponents anywhere. His manners were not those of a courtier, but having walked in the highest society of the land, he did not despise good breeding and the proper rules and fashions of the period. He did not try to please everybody so, of course, not every one liked him, although all admired his brilliant career and invaluable services in the Revolutionary army. There were grand social gatherings at the Cilley residence on Nottingham Square, from time to time. In military affairs he was very strict in enforcing discipline and in demanding for rank all that properly pertained to it. As a matter of fact, the common sort of fellows experienced a feeling of great awe when in the presence of the General. In the performance of all important functions he was a strict observer of what the rules of etiquette demanded. As regards religious matters he was not much of a churchman. He was decidedly liberal in his views at a time when it required genuine courage to stand up in opposition to the standard creeds of the period. He was a man of temperate habits, not given to high living, so that his religion consisted in the practice of moral and social virtues as set forth in the New Testament.

General Cilley's last official position was that of Councillor, which office he held in 1797 and 1798. He was one of the most efficient members of the Governor's advisers. As an example of his courage and quickness of action take the incident of quelling an insurrection of two hundred armed men, who attempted to overawe the Legislature when it was in session at Exeter in 1786. He was Major-

General then; he not only speedily gathered troops who routed the insurgents and took thirty of them prisoners, but he, personally, seized and arrested the leader and marched him off to prison.

General Cilley was a man of fine personal appearance; about five feet nine inches in height; somewhat corpulent in his later years; he had a well shaped head, bright, sparkling black eyes, and a clear sounding, far reaching voice, which always commanded attention when he spoke; he was a good and rapid speaker, but made no pretensions to oratory; his ideas were always clear cut and well expressed, showing that he understood what he was talking about, and he rarely failed to make his hearers understand it as he did.

General Cilley died in August, 1799, after a brief illness, which was, no doubt, the disease now known as appendicitis; the doctors then called it colic. The report says he rode about thirty miles, (on horseback) into the country, on a hot day, in the middle of August, to transact some important business, and was taken ill soon after his arrival there; everything was done for him that medical aid could do, and he was taken home in a carriage as speedily as possible. The report says that a day or two after his arrival there "sphacelation (mortification) seized his bowels; he bore his pains with great fortitude, and died with a calm and composed mind." The precise date of his death is not stated, but it was during the last of August, 1799.

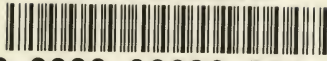
General Cilley became a Free and Accepted Mason in St. John's Lodge, Portsmouth, soon after he left the army. At his funeral the Masonic burial service was performed by the officers of that lodge. There was also a large gathering of military officers who had served with him and under him, not only in the militia of the state, where he had been Major-General, but also a good number of his old comrades who had served with him in the First New Hampshire Regiment in the Revolutionary War. The whole made one of the grandest funerals ever witnessed in Nottingham, or Rockingham County. His remains were interred in the burial ground near the family residence.







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